

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 01438 301735Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9376
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG, CA
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON PIPELINE

1. FRANCOPHONE LE DEVOIR OF AUGUST 29 CARRIED LONG EDITORIAL BY GEORGE VIGNY ON PIPELINE ISSUE. VIGNY NOTES THAT SINCE MEETING AUGUST 26 CANADIANS APPEAR TO HAVE BENN SATISFIED BY "GOOD ATMOSPHERE" WHICH PREVAILED DURING DISCUSSIONS, WHILE AMERICANS HAVE SHOWN SOME BITTERNESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT TOWARD CONTENT OF DISCUSSIONS.

2. EDITORIAL THEN CONTINUES ON TACK THAT PIPELINE ITSELF NO LONGER SEEMS TO BE AN ISSUE, AS FOCUS HAS CHANGED TO WHAT EACH SIDE CAN GAIN. FOR CANADIANS, CONCERN OVER COMPENSATING PAYMENTS AND SOURCING OF EQUIPMENT AND LABOR HAS REPLACED BASIC ISSUES OF ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISRUPTIONS. BARGAINING POSITIONS ON BOTH SIDES ARE NOT CONVINCING AS EL PASO IS TOO COSTLY AND PRESENTS TOO MANY OTHER PROBLEMS TO BE REAL ALTERNATIVE FOR U.S., WHILE CANADA WOULD NOT BE HAPPY WITH OUTCOME WHICH LEFT IT ALONE TO BUILD EVENTUAL PIPELINE TO TAP ITS OWN MACKENZIE GAS SUPPLIES.

3. VIGNY CONCLUDES ON THEME THAT PIPELINE MAY INDICATE THAT CANADA-U.S. SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IS AGAIN IN STYLE AND THAT
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BARGAINING REPRESENTS NO MORE THAN A SECONDARY ASPECT OF THAT SAME CONSTANT POLICY THAT FORBIDS CANADIANS OPTION OF AN OUTRIGHT REFUSAL. IS THE "THIRD OPTION" DEAD AND DOES THE PIPELINE REPRESENT A NEW BOND TO ADD TO THOSE CONTAINED IN THE BICENTENNIAL ALBUM "ENTRE AMIS"? FOR VIGNY, THIS IS ONE OF THOSE DRAMATIC SITUATIONS WHERE "ONE HOPES THAT IT DOES NOT FAIL, BUT ONE TREMBLES THAT IT MAY SUCCEED."

HARPER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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